

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Senoh (US 4,525,607).

Claims 5-13 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention from the reference relied upon in the rejection. As a result, the rejection is submitted to be inapplicable to the claims for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is patentable over Senoh, since claim 1 recites a multi-directional slide switch including, in part, a movable contact disposed in a case so that one end of the movable contact is able to contact with a fixed contact, wherein movement of the movable contact toward a center of the case is restricted and the movable contact is slidable along a sidewall of the case. Senoh fails to disclose or suggest a movable contact as recited in claim 1.

Senoh discloses a switch including an insulating base 18, a first terminal 19a disposed on one side of the base 18, a second terminal 19b disposed on another side of the base 18, and a common terminal 20 located in a center region of the base 18. The switch also has a cover 4 attached to the base 18 such that a space 5 is formed between the base 18 and cover 4. A contact element 21 and a push member 7a are disposed in the space 5. The contact element 21 is substantially U-shaped and has knife-edged portions 23a and 23b located in a center region thereof. The knife-edged portions 23a and 23b are in contact with the center terminal 20. The push member 7a is positioned with respect to the contact element 21 such that when the push member 7a is slid towards the terminal 19a, the contact element 21 is bent such that an end 22a of the contact element 21 contacts the terminal 19a. Also, when the push member 7a is slid towards the terminal 19b, the contact element 21 is bent such that an end 22b of the contact element 21 contacts the terminal 19b. (See column 3, line 21 - column 4, line 34 and Figures 1-5B).

In the rejection, the contact element 21 is indicated as corresponding to the movable contact recited in claim 1. However, the movable contact is now recited as being slidable along the sidewall


of the case of the switch. As can be clearly seen in Figure 5A of Senoh, the contact element 21 is not slidable along the sidewall of the cover 4 and, in fact, does not come into contact with the sidewall of the cover 4. Instead, the contact element 21 is only slidable in relation to the push member 7a. Therefore, Senoh fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1. As a result, claim 1 is patentable over Senoh.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-13 are not anticipated by Senoh. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to modify Senoh or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-13. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-13 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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